

Appl. No. 10/034,680
Docket No. 14XZ00135/OEM-0194

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for displaying digital images of a body part or parts, comprising the steps of:
defining a region of interest on each image embracing the body part;
aligning the regions of interest; and
simultaneously displaying the images with the regions of interest aligned;
wherein the region of interest is a rectangular region of the image of a minimum surface area to cover the body part.
2. (original) The method of claim 1, in which the images are images of a patient's breasts.
3. (canceled)
4. (currently amended) The method of claim [[3]] 5 wherein the region of interest is a rectangular region of the image of a minimum surface area to cover the body part.
5. (currently amended) A method for displaying digital images of a body part or parts, comprising the steps of:
defining a region of interest on each image embracing the body part;
aligning the regions of interest; and

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simultaneously displaying the images side by side with the regions of interest aligned;

~~The method of claim 1 wherein the images are displayed side by side and in which the alignment~~ aligning comprises the steps of:

comparing a vertical dimension of the region of interest on each image, and
if the vertical dimensions are identical, performing vertical alignment of an upper or lower edge of the regions of interest.

6. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein the images are displayed side by side and in which the alignment comprises the steps of:

comparing a vertical dimension of the region of interest on each image, and
if the vertical dimensions are identical, performing vertical alignment of an upper or lower edge of the regions of interest.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1 wherein the images are displayed side by side and in which the alignment comprises the steps of:

comparing a vertical dimension of the region of interest on each image, and
if the vertical dimensions are identical, performing vertical alignment of an upper or lower edge of the regions of interest.

8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the images are displayed side by side, and in which the alignment comprises the steps of:

comparing a vertical dimension of the region of interest of each image;
if the vertical dimensions are different, calculating an optimization criterion which is a function of relative image position; and
aligning the images while maximizing this criterion.

9. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein the images are displayed side by side, and in which the alignment comprises the steps of:

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comparing a vertical dimension of the region of interest of each image;
if the vertical dimensions are different, calculating an optimization criterion which
is a function of relative image position; and
aligning the images while maximizing this criterion.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, wherein the images are
displayed side by side, and in which the alignment comprises the steps of:
comparing a vertical dimension of the region of interest of each image;
if the vertical dimensions are different, calculating an optimization criterion which
is a function of relative image position; and
aligning the images while maximizing this criterion.

11. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein calculation of an optimization
criterion comprises calculating correlation.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[8]]~~ 2, wherein calculation of
an optimization criterion comprises calculating correlation.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[8]]~~ 10, wherein calculation of
an optimization criterion comprises calculating correlation.

14. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein calculation of an optimization
criterion comprises aligning body part contours.

15. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[8]]~~ 9, wherein calculation of
an optimization criterion comprises aligning body part contours.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[8]]~~ 10, wherein calculation of
an optimization criterion comprises aligning body part contours.

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17. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising, prior to the display step, enlargement of the images using a common magnification factor.

18. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein the region of interest of each image after enlargement is contained within the image displayed.

19. (currently amended) An apparatus for simultaneously displaying digital images of a body part or parts, comprising:
a unit for digital image acquisition;
an image processing unit receiving digital images supplied by the acquisition unit;
a display device for simultaneously displaying digital images processed by the processing unit, wherein the image processing unit comprises:

a region of interest defining block for defining a region of interest on each image embracing the body part; and

an alignment block for aligning the regions of interest of at least two images by comparing a vertical dimension of the region of interest on each image, and if the vertical dimensions are identical, performing vertical alignment of an upper or lower edge of the regions of interest.

20. (original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the image processing unit further comprises an enlargement block for enlarging the digital images using the same magnification factor.

21. (canceled)

22. (new) The method of Claim 5, wherein:
the position of a contour tip is used to align the regions of interest on each image.